



CITY OF HAMMOND

January 10, 2006

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U.S. EPA REGION 5
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Thomas V. Skinner, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Calumet Container Site
3631 Stateline Road
Hammond, Indiana
EPA ID: IND980500193

Dear Regional Administrator Skinner:

The following motion was made at the Hammond City Council Meeting, which was held on January 9, 2006.

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Repay, moved to have the following letter sent.

As the remediation of the Calumet Container site nears completion, the Hammond Common Council requests that USEPA enhance its dialog with local elected officials from the City of Hammond and Lake County, Indiana to determine the future use of this site. As I'm sure you, and your staff are aware, the city of Hammond has expended significant time, effort and funding to address the environmental issues associated with Calumet Container dating back to 1974.

The USEPA has taken several steps to remediate the Calumet Container site located at 3631 Stateline Road in Hammond, Indiana since a catastrophic fire occurred there in April of 1982. It was the city of Hammond that requested USEPA's assistance to address the contaminated runoff resulting from the fire and prevent it from leaving the premises. USEPA conducted an Emergency Response to that contamination issue. In 1984, a Planned Removal at the site took place under the authority of the USEPA. The Planned Removal required a 10% funding match from the State of Indiana. The State of Indiana did not have any funding source available to meet the match requirement –



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so the city of Hammond, utilizing local Revenue Sharing funds, met the State of Indiana's matching requirement so the second step in remediating the site could take place. USEPA advised the city of Hammond this was the first time a local community requested authorization to use local funding to meet a state-matching obligation. During a city ordered demolition of the structures at Calumet Container, city representatives were informed by the demolition contractor that a large amount of records were left in the plant office and were going to be hauled away in the debris. Representatives of the city of Hammond secured those corporate records, and immediately notified USEPA of their existence. USEPA Regional Attorney's Mary Gade and Michael Elam were provided with two 55-gallon fiber drums full of records so that USEPA could identify Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's) for future remediation of the site.

As you can see the remediation of this site has been an ongoing priority of the city of Hammond and its residents for three decades, and the city has not only fostered the goal of remediation but it has contributed financially to it. We specifically request USEPA augment its dialog with the city of Hammond, its Mayor, District Councilman, and environmental officials, along with the Lake County Commissioner who represents Hammond, to address this matter. This is our community, and our neighborhoods, and as elected officials and residents, we will be the ones most impacted by any decisions made about the future of this site. Please pledge to work with us so that the decisions made about the future of the Calumet Container site will best reflect the needs and goals of our community.

Sincerely,



Alfonso Salinas, President
Hammond Common Council

Cc: All council members

DR/cb